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**REMARKS**

Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26 of the application stand rejected. Claims 6, 7, 16 and 26 have been amended herein to more clearly define the scope of the presently claimed invention. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26 in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner points out that the phrase "the PIM database" in Claim 26 lacks antecedent basis and is unclear. Additionally, the Examiner suggests that the term "includes" in Claims 7 and 16 is unclear. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 7, 16 and 26 have been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections to these claims.

Claim objections

Claims 6, 7 and 9 are objected to because in Claim 6, line 12, the term "phrased" should be "phrases". Applicant respectfully submits that appropriate correction has been made and requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the claims.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kuhn et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,553,345, "Kuhn") in view of Kanevsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,818, "Kanevsky"). The Examiner suggests that although Kuhn fails to disclose an elimination procedure to select a final phrase, Kanevsky discloses this element and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Kuhn with Kanevsky. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

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First, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner inappropriately combined Kuhn and Kanevsky. Kuhn describes a universal remote control that allows natural language modality for television and multimedia searches and requests. Kanevsky, on the other hand, describes a system and method for resolving decoding ambiguity via dialog. The Examiner gives no explanation as to the motivation to combine these two references other than the fact that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize the system and method for resolving decoding ambiguity to iteratively eliminate phrases until a final phrase is obtained as taught by Kanevsky et al, in the multi-modal dialog unit of Kuhn et al. for the purpose of improving language decoding performance and accuracy. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's "motivation" is purely conclusory and that no motivation exists in either reference for such a combination. A rejection based on the combination of these references thus violates the requirements set out in M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j) which states "(t)here must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings." The simple fact that both references generally discuss speech does not prima facie suggest a motivation to combine the references.

Even assuming arguendo the references were properly combined, Kuhn and Kanevsky do not render Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26 unpatentable. Specifically, neither Kuhn nor Kanevsky, alone or in combination, teach or suggests all elements of independent Claims 6, 15 and 26. For example, the Examiner submits that Kuhn teaches the element of "when more than one phrase is recognized as the digitized voice data provided by the user as a result of voice-recognition uncertainty, using user-specific context information to choose a recognized phrase from the one or more phrases recognized as the digitized voice data". Specifically, the Examiner suggests that since Kuhn describes that "automatic speech recognition process block 217 generates word confidence vector 268 which indicates how well words in input sentence 218 were recognized", Kuhn teaches the element of "voice recognition uncertainty." Applicant strongly disagrees. Nothing in the section highlighted by the Examiner makes any reference to "voice recognition uncertainty". Instead, this section appears to describe the

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generation of a confidence vector, i.e., a measure of how well the words in the input sentence were recognized.

Similarly, the Examiner appears to argue that since the dialog manager in Kuhn asks the user about a particular topic to generate context weight, this teaches the use of "user-specific context information". Again, Applicant strongly disagrees. As claimed in independent Claims 6, 15 and 26, the "user-specific context information" is selected from a database based on the elements of uncertainty. Nothing in Kuhn teaches or suggests such a selection of user-specific context information. The sections of Kanevsky highlighted by the Examiner also fail to teach or suggest this element. Instead, similar to Kuhn, Kanevsky also appears to describe a system wherein users are asked to answer questions concerning space or time relationships in order for the speech recognition engine to resolve ambiguities. Again, this is in direct contrast to the claimed invention wherein the user-specific context information is selected from a database based on the elements of uncertainty. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Kuhn and/or Kanevsky, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggests all elements of independent Claims 6, 15 and 26. As a result, Applicant submits that Kuhn and/or Kanevsky do not render independent Claims 6, 15 and 26 (Claims 7, 9, 16 and 18 that are dependent on the independent claims) unpatentable. Applicant hereby respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections to Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26.

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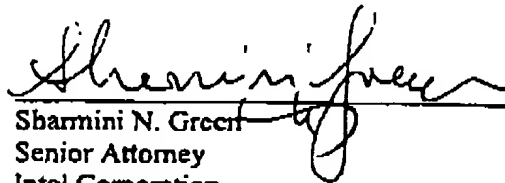
**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending Claims 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (714) 669-1261.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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